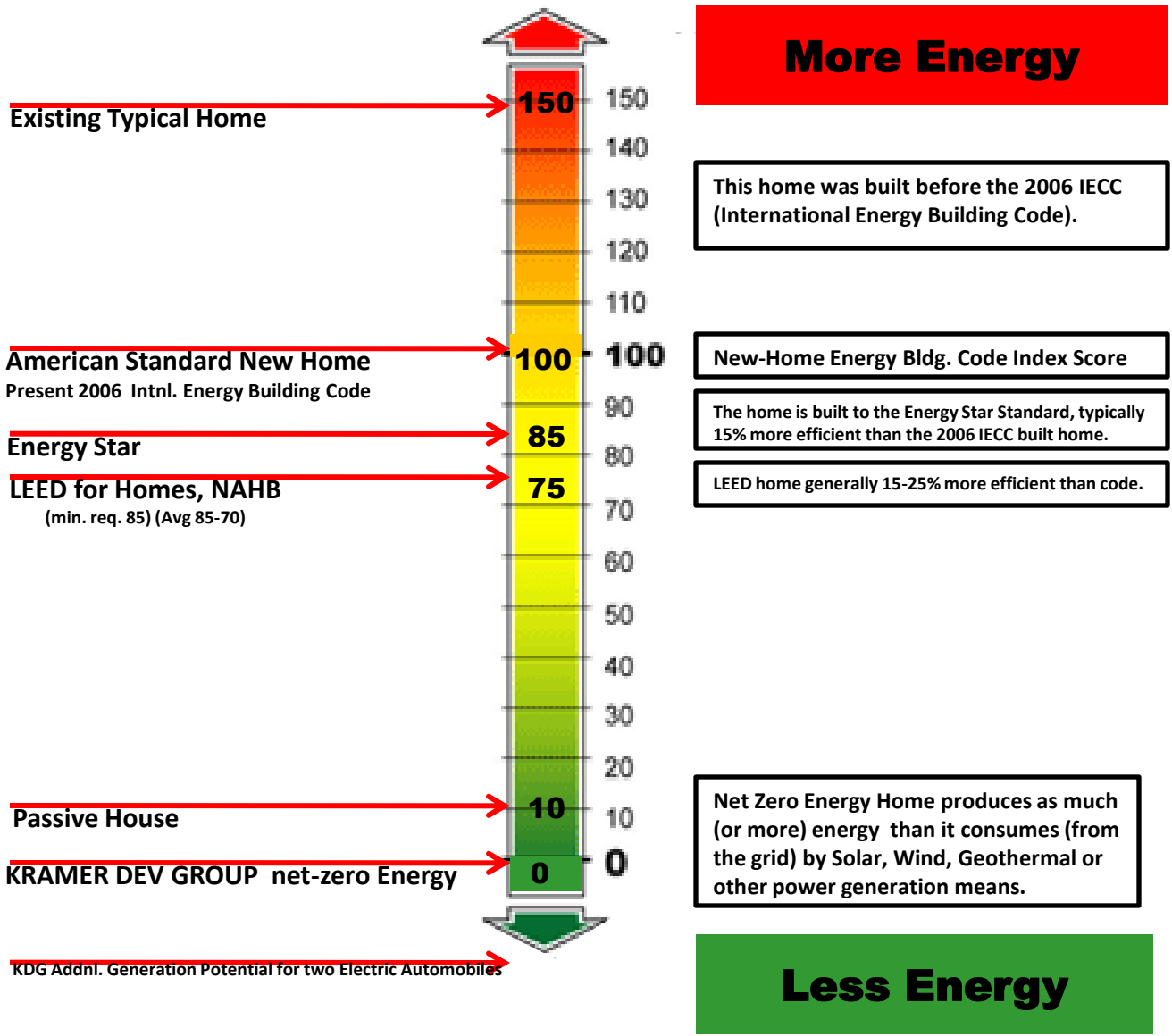


# HERS INDEX



**THE HERS OR HOME ENERGY RATING SYSTEM** is an established measurement of a home's energy efficiency. The HERS Index is a nationally and internationally recognized scale used to compare the energy efficiency of one home to another. The lower the HERS "home energy rating score" a home achieves on the scale, the more energy efficient. A Home Energy Rating Score (HERS) provides a relative energy use index called the HERS Index. An index of 100 represents the present U.S. building code energy usage of the American Standard Building ("to-code") home. Conversely, an index of zero (0) indicates the Proposed Building uses no net purchased energy (a Zero Energy Building). The HERS Index is the highest standard of home energy verification and is the only home performance index recognized by the EPA and government agencies. It is the standard to which all other homes are compared.

**A NEW HOME BUILT TO CODE** (the American Standard Building) is the baseline building code and earns a HERS Index of 100 which is the bare minimums to which a builder must conform without being in violation of code. When it comes to the HERS Index, the lower the better. An **ENERGY STAR** home is 15% more efficient than a house built to code and therefore would have a HERS Index of 85. A **U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) LEED** home is (up to) 25% more efficient than a house built to code and therefore would have a HERS index of (as low as) 75. A **NET-ZERO ENERGY HOME** is 100 percent more efficient than a house built to code and therefore would have a HERS index of Zero (0). It produces as much (or more) energy than it consumes (from the grid) by Solar, Wind, Geothermal or other power generation means.

**A HOME ENERGY RATING SYSTEM EVALUATES AND MEASURES** your home's energy characteristics. The following are just a few items that a home energy rating will consider: the construction & materials of the home, insulation levels, window/door types & efficiency, the window/door to wall area ratios, appliances and lighting (including the water heater), mechanical system (heating and cooling), the orientation of the house, the size of the conditioned area in square feet, and the leakage or air infiltration of the building (house) envelope and duct work. The Home Energy Rating is completed from on-site visits using test equipment like the blower door and duct tester and from blueprints on new homes. With information now gathered by the rater, data is electronically calculated using Nationally Approved Software and converted to the HERS Index. A HERS verification can only be conducted by a 3rd party certified HERS verifier who has been accredited by the Residential Energy Services Network (RESNET).